## Z'-induced Invisible Right-handed Sneutrino Decays at the LHC

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The invisible signals of right-handed sneutrino decays originating from a Z' are analyzed at the Large Hadron Collider. The possibility of accessing these events helps disentangling the B-L extension of Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model from more popular scenarios of Supersymmetry. We assess the scope of the CERN machine in establishing the aforementioned signatures when accompanied by mono-jet, single-photon or Z-radiation probes through sophisticated signal-to-background simulations carried out in presence of parton shower, hadronisation as well as detector effects. We find substantial sensitivity to all such signals for standard luminosities at Run 2.

The B-L Supersymmetric Standard Model (BLSSM) represents an appealing non-minimal realization of Supersymmetry (SUSY), as it is more compatible with current Large Hadron Collider (LHC) data than the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) and further uniquely accounts for the well established existence of non-zero neutrino masses. In this scenario, which is based on the gauge group  $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y \times U(1)_{B-L}$ , (heavy) right-handed neutrino Superfields are introduced in order to implement a Type I seesaw [1]. Also, it has been shown that the scale of the B-L symmetry breaking is related to the soft SUSY scale [2]. Furthermore, the BLSSM also alleviates the little hierarchy problem of the MSSM, as both the additional singlet Higgs state and right-handed (s)neutrinos release additional parameter space from the LEP, Tevatron and LHC constraints.

The Z' and (s)neutrino sectors are ideal hallmark manifestations of the BLSSM as candidate underlying SUSY model. An intriguing signal would be the one involving totally invisible decays of a Z' into (s)neutrinos, thereby being potentially accessible in mono-jet, single-photon and Z-ISR (Initial State Radiation) analyses. Contrary to SUSY models which do not have a Z' in their spectra, in the BLSSM one can afford resonant Z' (with a TeV scale mass) production and decay into heavy (s)neutrinos which can in turn decay, again on-shell, into an invisible final state. Therefore, one would expect the typical BLSSM distributions of the visible probe (whether it be mono-jet, single-photon or Z-ISR) to be substantially different from other SUSY scenarios where the mediator is much lighter. In this letter, we aim at studying this phenomenology and assess the scope of the LHC in testing it. It is worth mentioning that visible decays of the Z'into (s)neutrinos at the LHC have been studied in [3].

The particle content of the BLSSM includes, in addition to the MSSM fields, three chiral right-handed Superfields  $(N_i)$ , a vector Superfield associated to  $U(1)_{B-L}$  (Z') and two chiral Higgs singlet Superfields  $(\chi_1, \chi_2)$ . After B-L symmetry breaking has taken place, the  $U(1)_{B-L}$  gauge boson acquires a mass [1],  $M_{Z'}^2$ 

 $g_{B-L}^2 v^2$ , which is function of the B-L gauge coupling and the Higgs singlet vacuum expectation value. The most stringent constraint on the  $U(1)_{B-L}$  gauge boson parameters is obtained from LEP2 results, which imply  $\frac{M_{Z'}}{g_{B-L}} > 6$  TeV [4]. However, one should note that this result is based on the assumption that the Z' dominantly decays to the Standard Model (SM) quarks and leptons and is derived from the limit on the low energy fourfermion contact interactions induced by the Z' exchange diagram. As such, this type of bound cannot per se be relaxed, as one cannot account for, e.g., invisible decays of the Z' (into right-handed (s) neutrinos, in the BLSSM). In fact, if one departs from the effective Lagrangian approach, other dynamics may come into play, e.g., nonnegligible interference effects between the Z' and the SM neutral gauge bosons (again, as typical in the BLSSM). All this being said, since a re-computation of the LEP limits in the BLSSM is beyond the scope of this work, we adopt the 6 TeV limit as conservative in our scenario and nonetheless use it to constrain the  $g_{B-L}$  coupling [5], which should then be  $g_{B-L} < M_{Z'}/6$  TeV.

The Z' parameters should also be consistent with the exclusion limits imposed by the LHC Run 1. The latter are obtained from the Drell-Yan neutral channel as a function of the dilepton Branching Ratio (BR) of the Z', which in the BLSSM depends on a variety of parameters. However, rather than scanning on the latter (which will be the scope of a separate publication [6]) we have selected here two representative configurations of the BLSSM, one with a narrow and the other with a wide resonance, namely,  $\Gamma_{Z'}/M_{Z'} \simeq 2\%$  and  $\simeq 40\%$ , respectively. In case of a narrow resonance, one finds that  $M_{Z'} \gtrsim 2.5$  TeV whereas, for the wider resonance, this bound can be lessened to  $\mathcal{O}(1 \text{ TeV})$ , both for  $g_{B-L}$ couplings that we have verified to be not excluded by the data collected at the LHC with a center of mass energy of 8 TeV and an integrated luminosity of 20  $fb^{-1}$ . In order to perform such LHC tests, we have first reproduced experimental searches appropriate for both the scenarios of narrow and wide resonance in the dilepton

final states (with both electrons and muons). In both cases we have included Next-to-Next-to-Leading Order (NNLO) QCD corrections as well as the quoted acceptances and efficiencies in [7] for the electron and muon channels. We have finally combined the signal and background rates obtained from the two leptonic signatures and verified that our benchmarks have a significance below 2. In the narrow case we integrated the signal in a small mass region around the peak, chosen in order to maximize the respective significance, the latter obtained using Poisson statistics. In the wide case, since the peak structure in not visible, we have adopted a "counting experiment" approach. We have integrated the new physics signal imposing a low cut in the invariant mass distribution and have verified that the excess of Z' events (above the SM ones) is not sufficient to claim a discovery, adopting Gaussian statistics. Similarly, we did with regard to the bounds in [8]. In the remainder we will focus on a narrow Z', for sake of illustration. Further, for our chosen benchmark, all sparticle states, especially the colored ones, are heavy (but the sneutrinos and some of the charginos/neutralinos entering the Z' decay chains yielding invisible signals), so that no sizable intrinsic SUSY background exists.

From the BLSSM Lagrangian, the relevant interactions for the right-handed sneutrinos are given by

$$\mathcal{L}_{int}^{\bar{\nu}_R} = (Y_{\nu})_{ij} \bar{l}_i P_R (V_{k2} \tilde{\chi}_k^+)^{\dagger} (\Gamma_{\nu_R})_{\alpha j} \tilde{\nu}_{R_{\alpha}}$$

$$+ (Y_{\nu})_{ij} (U_{\text{MNS}})_{il} \bar{\nu}_l P_R (N_{k1}^* \tilde{\chi}_k^0) (\Gamma_{\nu_R})_{j\alpha} \tilde{\nu}_{R_{\alpha}}$$

$$+ (Y_{\nu})_{ij} (M_N)_j \cos \beta (\Gamma_{L_L})_{\beta i} \tilde{l}_{\beta} H^+ (\Gamma_{\nu_R})_{\alpha j} \tilde{\nu}_{R_{\alpha}}.$$

$$(1)$$

Here, the rotational matrices  $\Gamma_{L_L}$  and  $\Gamma_{\nu_R}$  are defined as  $\Gamma_L \equiv (\Gamma_{L_L}, \Gamma_{L_R})$  and  $\Gamma_{\nu} \equiv (\Gamma_{\nu_L}, \Gamma_{\nu_R})$ . From these interactions, it can be easily concluded that, if the lightest right-handed sneutrino is lighter than the lightest slepton and lightest chargino, then it decays into light SM-like neutrinos and lightest neutralinos. This decay channel would be invisible, since both light neutrinos and lightest neutralinos would be escaping the detector. Hence, given the discussed SUSY construction peculiar to the BLSSM, this pattern can provide a robust signature of B-L sneutrinos through mono-jet, single-photon and/or Z-ISR, further considering that the high Z' mass will force the missing transverse energy (and hence the  $p_T$  of the visible probe) to be harder than in Z (into neutralinos) mediated events typical of the MSSM.

In our calculations we have used SARAH [9] and SPheno [10, 11] to build the BLSSM and calculate masses, couplings and Branching Rations (BRs). We also considered the following benchmark (given at the SUSY scale):  $M_{Z'}=2.5~{\rm TeV},~g_{B-L}=0.4,~M_{\tilde{\nu}_{R_1}}\simeq M_{\tilde{\nu}_{R_2}}\simeq M_{\tilde{\nu}_{R_3}}\simeq 580~{\rm GeV},~M_{\tilde{\nu}_{R_4}}\simeq M_{\tilde{\nu}_{R_5}}\simeq M_{\tilde{\nu}_{R_6}}\simeq 740~{\rm GeV},~m_{\tilde{\chi}_{1,2}^\pm}\simeq 4,0.9~{\rm TeV},~m_{\tilde{\chi}_{1}^0}\simeq 440~{\rm GeV}$  and slepton masses of order 700 GeV. Furthermore, the matrix-elements for the parton level signals and backgrounds were derived from MadGraph5 [12]. Then, for showering and hadronisation we have used PYTHIA [13] whereas we have performed the fast detector simulations with PGS4 [14].

As jet finding algorithm, we have used a cone (with calorimeter  $k_t$  cluster finder) of size  $\Delta R = 0.5$ . Then, we have manipulated the generated data with MadAnalysis5 [15]. Finally, we have adopted usual selection strategies, wherein cuts are enforced against the kinematics of the highest  $p_T$  jet/photon or the Z.

We start with the mono-jet case, which is generally dominated by sneutrino decays [25] (hereafter, i = jet),

$$q\bar{q} \to Z'(\to \tilde{\nu}_R \tilde{\nu}_R^* \to \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \nu \bar{\nu}) + j.$$
 (2)

The SM backgrounds are the following:  $Z(\rightarrow \nu \bar{\nu}) + j$ (irreducible) plus  $W(\to l\nu) + j$ ,  $W(\to \tau\nu) + j$ ,  $t\bar{t}$  and  $ZZ(\rightarrow 2\nu 2\bar{\nu}) + j$  (all reducible). We closely follow here the selection of [16, 17]. Further, in order to increase the Monte Carlo efficiency and thus obtain reasonable statistics, we have applied a parton level cut of  $p_T(j_1) > 120 \,\mathrm{GeV}$  for both signals and backgrounds (here  $p_T(j_1)$  is the highest jet transverse momentum). According to the estimation of the QCD background based on the full detector simulation of [18, 19], such a noise can be reduced to a negligible level by requiring a large  $E_T$ cut. Thanks to the heavy Z' mediation, we can afford to set here  $E_T > 500 \text{ GeV}$  [20]. In view of this we can then also implement a  $E_T > 100$  GeV cut for both signals and backgrounds at generation level. The beneficial effect of the  $E_T$  selection is evident from the left plot in Fig. 1. In contrast, a similar cut on  $p_T(j_1)$  is not as selective (and is anyway correlated), see the right plot in Fig. 1, yet it pays off to also enforce it.

In Tab. I, we present the actual cut flow for signal and background events, given at 14 TeV with an integrated luminosity of 300 fb<sup>-1</sup>. After the BLSSM specific cuts, i.e.,  $\cancel{E}_T$  and  $p_T(j_1) > 500$  GeV, all the backgrounds are reduced under the dominant sneutrino signal. Other key steps of the analysis are the lepton,  $\tau$ - and b-jet vetoes, which suppress the W + j and  $t\bar{t}$  backgrounds by more than two orders of magnitude [21].

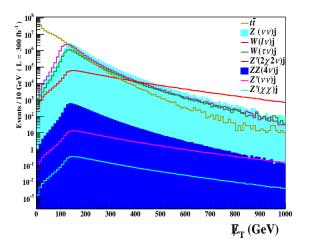
Now we turn to the single-photon signature, which occurs in our BLSSM point mainly via the following process:

$$q\bar{q} \to Z'(\to \tilde{\nu}_R \tilde{\nu}_R^* \to \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \nu \bar{\nu}) + \gamma.$$
 (3)

We have generated single-photon events while requiring the following parton level (generation) cuts:  $\not \!\! E_T > 50$  GeV,  $p_T(\gamma_1) > 40$  GeV,  $p_T(j_1) > 25$  GeV ( $p_T(\gamma_1)$ ) being the leading photon transverse momentum). We also generate the background processes  $Z(\to \nu \bar{\nu}) + \gamma$  and  $W(\to l\nu_l) + \gamma$ , where  $l=e, \mu$  or  $\tau$ . The latter are reduced significantly by applying the cut flow shown in Tab. II, see [16, 22] for guidance. Again, the sneutrino signal emerges dramatically over the backgrounds. Further, in Fig. 2, the spectra in  $\not \!\!\! E_T$  and  $p_T(\gamma_1)$  are shown. These plots well motivate our high transverse energy/momentum cuts, however, we note that the smaller signal rates here force us to a softer, yet still very effective, requirement, of a 150 GeV threshold.

For the Z-ISR signature in the BLSSM,

$$q\bar{q} \to Z'(\to \tilde{\nu}_R \tilde{\nu}_R^* \to \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \nu \bar{\nu}) + Z,$$
 (4)



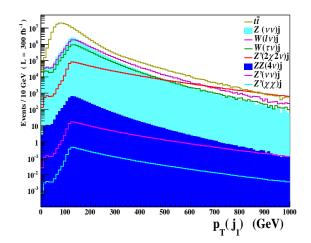


FIG. 1: (Left panel) Number of events versus the missing transverse energy. (Right panel) Number of events versus the transverse momentum of the leading jet. Distributions are for the mono-jet case given after the jet selection only. The energy is 14 TeV whereas the integrated luminosity is 300 fb<sup>-1</sup>. Here,  $M_{Z'} = 2.5$  TeV and  $g_{B-L} = 0.4$ .

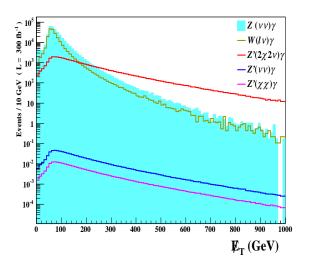
			Signals						
	Process	$Z( uar{ u})j$	$W(l\nu_l)j$	$W( au u_{ au})j$	tt	ZZj	$Z'(2\tilde{\chi}2\nu)j$	$Z'(\nu \bar{\nu})j$	$Z'(\tilde{\chi}\tilde{\chi})j$
В	efore cuts	21573000	19248000	9390000	179058000	6621	1334400	278	7.54
	(1)	$16823567 \pm 1924$	$15817945 \pm 1678$	$7719914 \pm 1171$	$151390826 \pm 4836$	$5732 \pm 28$	$1219314 \pm 324$	$255 \pm 4.68$	$6.895 \pm 0.77$
	(2)	$65275 \pm 255$	$135191 \pm 366$	$65423 \pm 254$	$298430 \pm 545$	$73 \pm 8.5$	$130636 \pm 343$	$27 \pm 4.95$	$0.741 \pm 0.82$
	(3)	$45530 \pm 213$	$32569 \pm 180$	$27102 \pm 164$	000000 = 0-11	$55.6 \pm 7.43$	$118456 \pm 328$	$25 \pm 4.74$	$0.672 \pm 0.78$
<del>+</del> 2	(4)	$14283 \pm 119$	$10566 \pm 102$	$8668.5 \pm 93.1$	$2808 \pm 53$	$16.5 \pm 4.06$	$35424 \pm 185$	= =	$0.201 \pm 0.44$
Cut	(5)	$10831 \pm 104$	$7395.3 \pm 86$	$6088.7 \pm 78$	$881.7 \pm 29.7$	$12.2 \pm 3.49$	$23330 \pm 151$		$0.132 \pm 0.36$
	(6)	$8992.5 \pm 94.8$	$6007.4 \pm 77.5$	$4699.9 \pm 68.5$	0.0.0 == -0.0	$9.79 \pm 3.13$	$18806 \pm 136$	0.0 =00	$0.107 \pm 0.33$
	(7)	$8969.8 \pm 94.7$	$3343.1 \pm 57.8$	$3929 \pm 62.7$		$9.78 \pm 3.12$	$18786 \pm 136$	$3.9 \pm 1.96$	0.101 ± 0.02
	(8)	$8969.8 \pm 94.7$	$871.2 \pm 29.5$	$3207.4 \pm 56.6$		$9.77 \pm 3.12$	$18782 \pm 136$	$3.9 \pm 1.96$	$0.107 \pm 0.32$
	(9)	$8458.9 \pm 92$	$790.2 \pm 28.1$	$1378.8 \pm 37.1$	01.00	$9.21 \pm 3.03$	$17878 \pm 132$	011 == -10=	$0.102 \pm 0.32$
	(10)	$8152.3 \pm 90.3$	$769.9 \pm 27.7$	$1334.4 \pm 36.5$	$54.26 \pm 7.37$	$8.8 \pm 2.96$	$17357 \pm 130$	$3.6 \pm 1.89$	$0.098 \pm 0.31$

TABLE I: The cut flow on background versus signal events for  $M_{Z'} = 2.5$  TeV and  $g_{B-L} = 0.4$  in the mono-jet channel at  $\sqrt{s} = 14$  TeV with  $\mathcal{L}dt = 300 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ : (1)  $n(\text{jets}) \ge 1$  with  $|\eta(j_1)| < 2$ ; (2)  $p_T(j_1) > 500$  GeV; (3)  $E_T > 500$  GeV; (4)  $\Delta \phi(j_2, E_T) > 0.5$ ; (5) veto on  $p_T(j_2) > 100$  GeV,  $|\eta(j_2)| < 2$ ; (6) veto on  $p_T(j_3) > 30$  GeV,  $|\eta(j_3)| < 4.5$ ; (7) veto on e; (8) veto on  $\mu$ ; (9) veto on  $\tau$ -jets; (10) veto on b-jets.

we generate events with the following parton level cuts:  $E_T > 80 \text{ GeV}, p_T(l) > 10 \text{ GeV} \text{ and } p_T(j) > 20 \text{ GeV}.$ The dominant irreducible background is  $ZZ \to l^+ l^- \bar{\nu} \nu$  $(l = e, \mu)$  and the other noise in this category is  $WW \rightarrow$  $l^+\nu l^-\bar{\nu}$ . As we reconstruct the Z probe, we enforce a cut on an invariant mass window centered on the Z mass for two oppositely charged leptons,  $m_{ll} \in [76, 106]$  GeV [23], the latter is strongly reduced. The reducible backgrounds may have jets produced: Z + jets,  $ZZ \rightarrow \bar{q}ql^+l^-$  and  $ZW \to l^+ \bar{l}^- \bar{q}q$ . After the customary large  $\rlap{/}E_T$  cut that the heavy Z' allows us to enforce (here,  $\rlap{/}E_T > 250$  GeV), this cumulative noise yields no event for the luminosity adopted. In addition, there are other reducible backgrounds with jets that we have dealt with:  $t\bar{t} \to l^+ \nu b l^- \bar{\nu} \bar{b}$ which is reduced by rejecting events containing at least one jet with  $p_T > 25$  GeV; W+jets which is reduced by the large  $E_T$  cut. The last leptonic background is  $ZW \to l\nu l^+ l^-$ , which is also eliminated by the cut  $E_T > 250$  GeV. The cut flow (modeled on [24]) and individual responses of signals and backgrounds are shown in Tab. III. In Fig. 3, we show the various distributions in

 $\not\!\!E_T$ , again, for the purpose of justifying our BLSSM specific  $\not\!\!E_T$  selection. Again, the invisible signal dominated by the sneutrinos and accompanied by the reconstructed Z stands well above the backgrounds.

In summary, we have proven the sensitivity that the LHC has in Run 2 with standard luminosity settings in probing invisible signals which emerge in the BLSSM from Z' decays in presence of an associated jet, photon or Z-boson. For all such signatures, we were able, upon enforcing well established selection procedures for these topologies supplemented by BLSSM specific cuts, to establish signals with significances well above the customary  $5\sigma$  discovery limit. Indeed, this has been possible thanks to the fact that the BLSSM mediator of such invisible signals is a very heavy Z', with mass in the TeV region, thereby transferring to its decay products large transverse momenta that can be generically exploited in all cases for background reduction. Furthermore, for all topologies considered, the dominant component of the signal is via sneutrinos (above neutrinos and neutralinos), so that assessing these invisible signatures in the



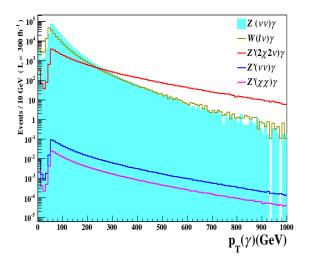


FIG. 2: (Left panel) Number of events versus the missing transverse energy. (Right panel) Number of events versus the transverse momentum of the leading photon. Distributions are for the single-photon case given after the jet selection only. The energy is 14 TeV whereas the integrated luminosity is 300 fb<sup>-1</sup>. Here,  $M_{Z'}=2.5$  TeV and  $g_{B-L}=0.4$ .

		Backgr	rounds	Signals			
	Process	$Z(\nu \bar{\nu})\gamma$	$W(l\nu_l)\gamma$	$Z'(2\tilde{\chi}2\nu)\gamma$	$Z'(\nu\bar{\nu})\gamma$	$Z'(\tilde{\chi}\tilde{\chi})\gamma$	
	Before cuts	332712	204644	37380	0.861	0.234	
	$n(\gamma) \ge 1$	$316031 \pm 125$	$192677 \pm 106$	$34998 \pm 47.2$	$0.806 \pm 0.227$	$0.219 \pm 0.118$	
	$p_T(\gamma_1) > 150 \text{ GeV}$	$18576 \pm 132$	$12146 \pm 106$	$12357.8 \pm 91$	$0.282 \pm 0.435$	$0.0765 \pm 0.2268$	
Cut	$E_T > 150 \text{ GeV}$	$14681 \pm 118$	$4287.3 \pm 64.8$	$11202 \pm 88.6$	$0.255 \pm 0.424$	$0.0693 \pm 0.2208$	
	$n(j) \le 1,  \eta(j)  < 4.5$					$0.0457 \pm 0.1917$	
	veto on e	$6817.6 \pm 81.7$	$1731.8 \pm 41.4$	$7409.3 \pm 77.1$	$0.168 \pm 0.368$	$0.0456 \pm 0.1916$	
	veto on $\mu$	$6817.6 \pm 81.7$	$1132.5 \pm 33.6$	$7407 \pm 77.1$		$0.0456 \pm 0.1916$	
	veto on $\tau$ -jets	$6479.8 \pm 79.7$	$758 \pm 27.5$	$7069 \pm 75.7$	$0.161 \pm 0.631$	$0.0435 \pm 0.1882$	

TABLE II: The cut flow on background versus signal events for  $M_{Z'}=2.5$  TeV and  $g_{B-L}=0.4$  in the single-photon channel at  $\sqrt{s}=14$  TeV with  $\mathcal{L}dt=300$  fb<sup>-1</sup>.

heavy  $E_T$  regime would not only signal the presence of a dark matter induced channel within SUSY but also be a circumstantial evidence of a theoretically well motivated non-minimal version of it, the BLSSM. In a forthcoming publication [6], we shall show that the case made here for illustrative purposes using a benchmark with a 2.5 TeV and rather narrow Z' can be extended to a large BLSSM parameter space volume (also covering lighter and/or wider Z's).

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		Backgrounds				Signals			
	Process	$ZZ(2l2\nu)$	$WW(2l2\nu)$	$ZW(3l\nu)$	$W(l\nu)j$	t ar t	$Z'(2\tilde{\chi}2\nu)Z$	$Z'(\nu\bar{\nu})Z$	$Z'(\tilde{\chi}\tilde{\chi})Z$
	Before cuts	12027	18966	5541	64980000	2377500	33900	0.703	0.191
Cut	$m_{ll} \in [76, 106] \text{ GeV}$	$9068.1 \pm 47.2$	$2726.2 \pm 48.3$	$4392.8 \pm 30.2$	$521652 \pm 719$	$403272 \pm 578$	$1553.3 \pm 38.5$	$0.0322 \pm 0.175$	$0.0088 \pm 0.0914$
	veto on $p_T(j) > 25 \text{ GeV}$	$6510.6 \pm 54.6$	$2025.7 \pm 42.5$	$2997.1 \pm 37.1$	$193982 \pm 439$	$12007 \pm 109$	$696.2 \pm 26.1$	$0.0145 \pm 0.119$	$0.0039 \pm 0.0617$
	$E_T > 250 \text{ GeV}$	$229 \pm 15.0$	$1.15 \pm 1.07$	$49.63 \pm 7.01$	$171 \pm 13.1$	$8.76 \pm 2.96$	$200.3 \pm 14.1$	$0.0041 \pm 0.064$	$0.0011 \pm 0.0334$

TABLE III: The cut flow on background versus signal events for  $M_{Z'}=2.5$  TeV and  $g_{B-L}=0.4$  in the Z-ISR channel at  $\sqrt{s}=14$  TeV with  $\mathcal{L}dt=300$  fb<sup>-1</sup>.

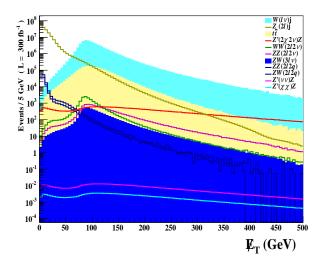


FIG. 3: Number of events versus the missing transverse energy. Distributions are for the Z-ISR case given after the jet selection only. The energy is 14 TeV whereas the integrated luminosity is 300 fb<sup>-1</sup>. Here,  $M_{Z'}=2.5$  TeV and  $g_{B-L}=0.4$ .

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